



# COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

*CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1*

## Press Release

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For Immediate Release:  
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### **Councilmember Lightner Announces her Position and Recommendations for a Humane, Cost-Effective, & Safe Management Plan for Children's Pool *Calls for Community Participation and Increased Accountability***

San Diego – San Diego City Councilmember Sherri Lightner today announced her position and recommendations to comply with the court orders and preserve the 1931 trust donated to the City of San Diego by Ellen Browning Scripps that established the Children's Pool as a swimming area for children.

“Since before I was elected, I have supported the position that the City must comply with the court orders and preserve the trust,” said Lightner. “I believe any plan considered must humanely, cost-effectively and safely allow for the co-existence of people and seals at the Children's Pool and comply with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.”

“We were notified last night that the federal restraining order that prevents the City from taking any action to disperse the seals from the Children's Pool is still in effect. This order supercedes the Superior Court order to disperse the seals,” Lightner continued.

At a press conference this afternoon, Lightner called on the Mayor and City Attorney to actively engage in community participation in planning how the City will manage the Children's Pool.

“This provides us with an excellent opportunity to improve the way the City partners with the community to abide by the court orders and to improve community participation and oversight,” Lightner added.

Recently, the Court rejected the costly plan to disperse the seals that the Mayor's office had previously developed and submitted without community input or oversight.

“The City must not shut out the public. Rather the City needs to fully engage the community, provide a fair and thorough assessment of all ideas and increase accountability through an open process,” said Lightner.

Lightner also called for the City’s process to be held accountable to the public by providing the community with the opportunity to review and assess how the City analyzed the recommendations. She urged the City to provide a report to the public that shows how the ideas were evaluated and identifies the criteria used to evaluate each idea.

“I believe that the City needs to proceed with an open, fair and thorough evaluation of all ideas and full community participation,” said Lightner. “This will help develop the safest, most humane and cost-effective plan possible that achieves the court orders, meets the federal requirements and preserves the trust. It may also increase the possibility of achieving a measure of consensus and community understanding, leading to acceptance of and compliance with the eventual plan.”

“It’s also important to address the eventuality of seals populating surrounding beaches. Any plan to manage our seal population on local beaches should focus on discouraging seals from returning after they leave naturally on their own, as is their habit twice a day, rather than on forcing them to leave,” Lightner continued.

Lightner announced she will hold two community forums regarding the Children’s Pool.

- There will be a forum on June 18 to focus on the summer management plan; and
- A forum on June 25 will focus on the community’s ideas for a marine mammal park at the Children’s Pool.

Lightner submitted the memo outlining her position and recommendations yesterday to the Mayor and City Attorney.

*Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.*

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